

# **2010 Mental Health Transformation Grant**

## **Draft Project Vision**

### **March 22, 2010**

#### **Background**

- SAMHSA has released an RFA for a new round of transformation grants
- Eligible applicants include State and local governments and federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes and tribal organizations
- SAMHSA expects to fund 22 projects at an average of \$750,000 per year for 5 years
- At least 65% of the funds must be used for services
  - up to 15% may be spent on infrastructure needed to expand services
  - up to 20% may be spent on data collection and performance assessment
- Projects must be seen as transformative and cannot supplant
- Use of evidence-based practices is encouraged
- Applications are due April 30
- The RFA can be found at: <http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/SM-10-010.aspx>

#### **DBHR Project Vision:**

DBHR would like to partner with two Regional Support Networks to Develop projects in line with the following strategic initiative identified in the grant:

“Increase the availability of services linked to safe and affordable permanent housing for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to mental illness, substance use, HIV/AIDs or long term institutionalization in a nursing home, jail, or other facility. Services may include outreach, Critical Time Intervention, supportive housing and Assertive Community Treatment or other proven evidence based model for service delivery, ensuring fidelity to the practice models.”

To this end, DBHR’s specific vision of the projects to be supported would include a number of key elements as listed below. Please note that it is **not expected** that all of these components can be funded through this grant award and we expect that other state and local resources will need to be leveraged in order to successfully develop a comprehensive approach. Key elements include:

- Projects are founded on a “Permanent Supportive Housing” approach – soon to be a formal Evidence-based Practice with the introduction of a “tool kit” from CMHS/SAMHSA.
- Projects provide housing specialist function which can act as support to landlords and assist clients in accessing and retaining appropriate housing
- Projects incorporate the use of peer support services

- Consumers are involved in planning, implementation and evaluation of the project
- Projects must include adequate support services including outreach and engagement
- Priority populations should include: individuals transitioning from institutions, those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, youth in transition, individuals transitioning from mental health residential beds, returning veterans, and individuals with mental illnesses and/or co-occurring disorders
- Housing associated with the services may be scattered site or within a housing project
- Services must be operational within six months after the award is received with increased performance each year
- Projects address the trauma-related needs of consumers/survivors
- Projects demonstrate they can access other resources for tenant support (e.g. rental subsidies)
- Projects are coordinated with local housing authorities
- Project identifies how it will combine support for employment services within the permanent supported housing approach
- Suggested- DBHR suggests consideration of a Housing First housing model but is aware this model may not work for all types of projects

### **State Support for the Project**

Following are a list of state resources that will be committed to this project:

- DBHR will take the lead in writing the grant (Alice Huber, Andy Toulon, Frank Jose, Jeanette Barnes, and Kathleen Lizee)
- DBHR has a letter of commitment from COM to provide \$300k per year in federal HOME funds for tenant-based rental assistance in areas that are part of the balance of state counties- (RSNs that serve “entitlement” communities, those cities and counties that receive a federal allocation directly, will need to leverage these types of resources directly through the county/city)
- DBHR will offer Technical Assistance through Contracts with Common Ground in housing and Advocates for Human Potential - John Rio – for the integration of employment into the project
- DBHR will complete evaluation leveraging administrative data through RDA to minimize additional data collection
- DBHR will identify opportunities for specialized training to the project through existing WIMHRT contracts

### **Public Input**

DBHR would like to receive input related to this project concept from consumers, family members and other mental health advocates and stakeholders. Please send comments to :

[MHTG2010@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:MHTG2010@dshs.wa.gov)